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LETTER DATED 2 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you a fax-transmitted copy of the statement issued today by the Nagorny Karabakh State Defence Committee.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Nagorny Karabakh Republic

State Defence Committee

On 2 July at 0600 hours, after bombing raids carried out by low-flying attack aircraft of the Azerbaijani airforce, armed formations of Azerbaijan, supported by tanks and artillery, began large-scale offensives in the Gadrut district of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic. They managed to break through the defences and capture the villages of Zamzur, Dor, Melikhdzhandy and Bulutan. Fighting is taking place on the outskirts of the district centre of Gadrut. The village of Dapravend, in the direction of Mardakert, was also captured.

This latest escalation of Azerbaijani aggression was preceded by war hysteria whipped by the mass media and calls by the leaders of the Azerbaijani Republic to move all forces to the Karabakh front. This deliberate transfer of units to the frontiers of Nagorny Karabakh, and the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan - a statement unprecedented in its mendacity - are eloquent proof of the intentions of the Azerbaijani authorities.

Yet again, the leaders of Azerbaijan are provoking, with perfect impunity, an escalation of hostilities in order to achieve their political aims and are attempting to frighten the war-weary Azerbaijani people with the spectre of an external enemy, hoping to divert their attention from the internal political crisis.

Once again, the authorities of Azerbaijan are attempting to play the Karabakh card, in defiance of the efforts of the Security Council and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict, and the clearly stated readiness of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic for a cease-fire.

In the interests of the security of the population of the Republic, the Government of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic will take all necessary measures to restrain the aggressor.

The leaders of Azerbaijan bear full responsibility for the consequences of the escalation of hostilities in the region.

(Signed) Robert KOCHARYAN
Chairman of the State Defence Committee
of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic

Stepanakert
2 July 1993.